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# THE DHUDHUROA LANGUAGE OF VICTORIA

By R. H. MATHEWS

THE Dhudhuroa was spoken by the Dyinningmiddhang tribe on the Mitta Mitta and Kiewa rivers, and along the Murray valley from Albury to Jingellic. Minyambuta, a dialect of the Dhudhuroa, was the speech of the tribes occupying the Buffalo, King, Ovens, and Broken rivers, with the tributaries of all these streams. From Jingellic eastward was the country of the Walgálu tribe, whose speech resembled partly the Dhudhuroa and partly the Dyrirringañ, a tongue spoken from about Nimmitabel to Bega. In 1902 I published a short grammar of the Dyrirringañ language.<sup>1</sup>

The *Wonggoa* ceremony of initiation, which was in force among the Dyinningmiddhang and Minyambuta tribes, was described by me in 1904.<sup>2</sup> The initiation ceremony of the Dyrirringañ is fully set forth in an article communicated to the Anthropological Society of Washington, U. S. A., in 1896.<sup>3</sup>

North of the Dyinningmiddhang, on the opposite side of the Murray, the country was occupied by the outskirts of the Wiradjuri nation. As a consequence of this, we find that the Wiradjuri system of marriage and descent<sup>4</sup> overlapped some distance southerly from the Murray among the Dhudhuroa speaking people. For example, along a narrow strip of country on the southern bank of Murray from Albury to Jingellic, the descent of the children is through the mother. Among the Minyambuta the descent was paternal, the same as among the tribes to the west and south of them, particulars of which I have given elsewhere.<sup>5</sup>

## DHUDHUROA GRAMMAR

### *Nouns*

Nouns are subject to inflection for number, gender, and case.

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<sup>1</sup> *Journal Royal Society New South Wales*, xxxvi, 160-167.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, xxxviii, 306-322.

<sup>3</sup> *American Anthropologist*, ix, 1896, 327-344, with plate.

<sup>4</sup> *American Anthropologist*, ix, 1896, 411-416; *Ibid.*, x, 345-347.

<sup>5</sup> *Journal Royal Society New South Wales*, xxxviii, 297-305.

NUMBER. — *Yauara*, a kangaroo ; *yauaraulbo*, a pair of kangaroos ; *yauaramunga*, several kangaroos.

GENDER. — *Dyaba*, a man ; *mulla*, a woman. *Yauara-jumma*, a male kangaroo ; *yauara-dyunggāna*, a female kangaroo. Among birds, the cock is denoted by the postfix *bendyana*, and the hen by *mimmindyana*.

CASE. — There are two forms of the nominative. When the action is described by an intransitive verb, the noun is without flexion ; but when a transitive verb is used, the noun takes a causative suffix, as *dyabungu dyaua dugge*, a man an opossum killed.

Genitive : *Dyabala wūngewa*, a man's boomerang ; *mullala dyudya*, a woman's yamstick.

The accusative is generally the same as the nominative, but when an instrument is the remote object of the verb, it requires a suffix, as *dyabangu wagara wūngewangu yerriadhani*, a man at a crow a boomerang threw.

The dative and ablative have their respective inflections.

#### Adjectives

Adjectives take the same declensions for number, gender, and case as the nouns with which they are used : *Wagara murrandoa*, a large crow ; *wagaralbo murrandoalba*, a pair of large crows. The adjective always follows the noun which it qualifies. Adjectives are compared by two positive statements.

#### Pronouns

Pronouns have number, person, and case, and contain two distinct forms in the first person of the dual and plural.

The nominative pronouns are :

Singular	{	1st person	I	<i>nguddha</i>
		2d person	thou	<i>nginda</i>
		3d person	he	<i>magudha</i>
Dual	{	1st person	we, inclusive	<i>ngulla</i>
			we, exclusive	<i>ngullandha</i>
Plural	{	1st person	we, inclusive	<i>ngana</i>
			we, exclusive	<i>nganandha</i>

The following are the possessive pronouns in the singular number :

Singular	1st person	mine	<i>ngaila</i>
	2d person	thine	<i>nginna</i>
	3d person	his	<i>magudhala</i>

DEMONSTRATIVES. — This, *dyimbi*; that, *maigadha*; that, farther, *mamaitgura*; that, still farther, *madhanbunga*; that, away yonder, *kait-gu-ru'-u-u*.

INTERROGATIVES. — Who (is that), *nganbandu*; who (did that), *nganbunga*; who (for), *ngangala*; who (from), *ngandung'u*; who (are those two), *nganbulbul*; what, *minyua*; what for, *minyēna*; how many, *minyamalañ*.

#### Verbs

Verbs have the same numbers and persons as the pronouns, with the usual tenses and moods. Tables of conjugations are not thought necessary, but a tolerably full list of verbs in common use will be found in the vocabulary. They are conjugated as in the Wiradyuri language,<sup>1</sup> published by me in 1904.

#### Adverbs

Here, *dyimbi*; there, *mūnya*; where, *wallume*; where (is it), *wallungura*; where (dual), *wallumbulan*; yes, *namai*; no, *dhubūlga*; to-day, *nyinyanga*; to-morrow, *ngangara*; by and by, *maiarngan*; long ago, *nungadhanambu*; how (was it done), *yungamininda*; when (was it done), *nguddaganganda*.

#### Prepositions

In front, *burrin-bung'a*; behind, *bunnhonga*; around, *gullag-wiangga*; between, *tumuramanga*; inside, *kikago*; outside, *kai-kudha*; up (a river), *wunbainangadha*; down (a river), *dyikanan-gadha*; up (on top), *gunnagadha*; this side (as a stream, rock, etc.), *dyimbiangga*; the other side (of a river, etc.), *yirigama*.

#### Interjections and Exclamations

These parts of speech are not numerous. Hold on! *kunyē*; *Nheh!* I don't know.

#### Numerals

One, *kurdawung-a*; two, *buládherabo*; three, *buranigo* (this also means a few, such as three or four); many, *nyanda*.

<sup>1</sup> *Journal Anthropological Institute*, XXXIV, 288-290.

## DHUDHUROA VOCABULARY

This vocabulary contains about 235 words of Dhudhuroa, collected by myself from the native speakers. Words of a similar kind are placed under similar headings, in the hope that this classification will be found more convenient for reference than if arranged in alphabetic sequence. It is the equivalence of English words which will be most frequently required and therefore they are placed first.

FAMILY TERMS			
Man	<i>dya-ba</i>	tongue	<i>dhallañba</i>
husband	<i>ningullale</i>	back	<i>bunno</i>
small boy	<i>magudya</i>	arm, all	<i>kuttyinba</i>
youth, initiated	<i>wangoa</i>	elbow	<i>kūrunba</i>
sorcerer	<i>wurra'we</i>	hand	<i>murra</i>
initiated man	<i>dyibboba</i>	leg, thigh	<i>kurriwa</i>
elder brother	<i>murro'gañ</i>	calf of leg	<i>murrandho</i>
younger brother	<i>ngulubaminni</i>	knee	<i>dhimminba</i>
father	<i>mema</i>	foot	<i>dyinnu</i>
woman	<i>mulla</i>	heel	<i>mūnin-dyinnu</i>
small girl	<i>jummaganba</i>	fat	<i>kullanhu</i>
child, neuter	<i>bundyina</i>	bone	<i>biamunnhu</i>
mother	<i>baba</i>	penis	<i>nugginba</i>
mother-in-law	<i>ngunnung-gunnag</i>	scrotum	<i>būmbua</i>
elder sister	<i>mandaguni</i>	vulva	<i>ngurrung-goa</i>
younger sister	<i>burrin-ga</i>	nymphæ	<i>nunga-nunginba</i>
THE HUMAN BODY		copulation	<i>mūnbi</i>
Head	<i>murrewa</i>	semen	<i>bulliwa</i>
forehead	<i>ngulua</i>	urine	<i>dyi-wa</i>
beard	<i>yerranba</i>	excrement	<i>gunu</i>
eye	<i>wūndyaba</i>	INANIMATE NATURE	
nose	<i>dhindiwa</i>	Sun	<i>nau'-i-u</i>
neck, throat	<i>billi'dyua</i>	moon	<i>wurraiu</i>
ear	<i>mūrlamboa</i>	stars	<i>dyim-boa</i>
mouth	<i>lēndhewa</i>	pleiades	<i>gūndaganba</i>
teeth	<i>niyu</i>	thunder	<i>muri-muriwa</i>
mammæ	<i>birriwa</i>	rain	<i>kurraiu</i>
navel	<i>biddit-bidditba</i>	fog	<i>ngur-ngurgu</i>
belly	<i>bandhara</i>	frost	<i>girraia</i>
		hail	<i>bettima</i>

fresh water	<i>gundha</i>
ground	<i>guratba</i>
a stone	<i>duruba</i>
sand	<i>maiaba</i>
darkness	<i>dho-gõtch'-ba</i>
heat	<i>meninha</i>
coldness	<i>kurkutba</i>
rainbow	<i>kũlbe'awa</i>
shadow	<i>murriago</i>
camp	<i>ngu-tyu-a</i>
fire	<i>ngeambũnba</i>
smoke	<i>thumbaba</i>
food	<i>bummainba</i>
night	<i>dho-gõtch'-ba</i>
morning	<i>dyikana</i>
evening	<i>dyebañ</i>
hills	<i>minggau-gunnedha</i>
sandhill	<i>nudyuru</i>
grass	<i>muru</i>
leaves (of trees)	<i>burramiyu</i>
egg	<i>dhũnga</i>
honey	<i>ngurrua</i>
pathway	<i>mũrdhañba</i>
shadow	<i>murraiago</i>
tail of animal	<i>dya-wa</i>

## MAMMALS

Rockwallaby	<i>waiatba</i>
flying squirrel	<i>yiranhoga</i>
kangaroo	<i>yauara</i>
black opossum	<i>kaunga</i>
bandicoot	<i>bulladha</i>
porcupine	<i>dhemũnba</i>
dog	<i>mingga</i>
gray opossum	<i>dyau'-u</i>
kangaroo-rat	<i>burra</i>
bat	<i>munmalauna</i>

## BIRDS

Laughing jackass	<i>kugarungga</i>
peewee	<i>dildilwa</i>

swan	<i>mulliwa</i>
crane	<i>kurrial'wan</i>
white necked crane	<i>murgoa</i>
eaglehawk	<i>wunnamuru</i>
black duck	<i>tumu</i>
curlew	<i>guranyillawa</i>
teal duck	<i>bai-a'-wu</i>
wood duck	<i>nanatba</i>
emu	<i>murri-a'-wa</i>
crow	<i>berrutha, wagara</i>
lyre-bird	<i>bullit-bullitba</i>
native companion	<i>birang'ganba</i>
common magpie	<i>gu'rin-gingga</i>
white cockatoo	<i>kittau'nu</i>
pelican	<i>gulaiguli</i>
willy-wagtail	<i>badyeri-dyirritba</i>

## FISHES

Perch	<i>mur'roanba</i>
cod	<i>yũmboa</i>
black bream	<i>wũnnũmbẽ-u</i>

## REPTILES

Brown snake	<i>ge-ang-gu</i>
carpet snake	<i>kunggaia</i>
black snake	<i>dyu-dyu-a</i>
ground iguana	<i>wũr'ura-dyaua</i>
tree iguana	<i>gurudha</i>

## INVERTEBRATES

Locust	<i>gulangalangba</i>
blow-fly	<i>bũmboa</i>
louse	<i>munnhuwa</i>
nits of lice	<i>dungganu</i>
centipede	<i>kur-rer'inba</i>
mosquito	<i>kirridhu</i>

## TREES

Wattle tree	<i>wawaru</i>
wattle bloom	<i>baddalwa</i>
red gum	<i>gũmburro</i>
gray box	<i>tharringgoa</i>

yellow box	<i>bainoa</i>	full	<i>gundya-yebbug</i>
cherry tree	<i>berwa</i>	quick	<i>werañ</i>
kurrajong	<i>bibbanba</i>	slow	<i>bagir' rimalé</i>
pine	<i>yeddonba</i>	blind	<i>miki wündyagu</i>
she-oak	<i>wündyu</i>	deaf	<i>miki mürlumbagu</i>
honeysuckle	<i>murka</i>	strong	<i>dha-ung</i>
ironbark	<i>bullutchba</i>	afraid	<i>wurragana</i>
apple tree	<i>mürrinya</i>	right	<i>nebbunda</i>
stringybark	<i>dhuddha</i>	wrong	<i>ngabun</i>
mountain-ash	<i>dhum' buddhanda'</i>	tired	<i>ngarmunnung</i>
currant bush	<i>yerroanba</i>	fat	<i>kullimbu</i>
peppermint	<i>wuritba</i>	lean	<i>dhummindhunnu</i>
white gum	<i>bulluba</i>	cold	<i>kurkutang</i>
blue gum	<i>buneba</i>	angry	<i>warkamana</i>
grass tree	<i>dyan'-dyum-ba</i>	sleepy	<i>ngurunguraia</i>

## WEAPONS

Tomahawk	<i>mutiwa</i>	glad	<i>gangwa</i>
yamstick	<i>tyu-tya</i>	greedy	<i>ngullara</i>
spear, wood	<i>manduga</i>	sick	<i>id-ya-na' bi</i>
spear-lever	<i>biuga, wommarua</i>	sticking	<i>mirgu</i>
shield for spear	<i>birkiambu</i>	pregnant	<i>ngundanya</i>

## VERBS

shield for club	<i>mürga</i>	Die	<i>nginyanga</i>
club, fighting	<i>gudyera</i>	eat	<i>dhunna</i>
club, hunting	<i>dunnung-unninba</i>	drink	<i>ngumare</i>
boomerang	<i>wün'-ge-wa</i>	sleep	<i>nyiminye</i>
small club	<i>gidyu-dyurüm' bulu</i>	stand	<i>tyekandjai</i>
canoe	<i>mautha</i>	sit	<i>nginggai</i>
ADJECTIVES		talk	<i>thurgwai</i>
Alive	<i>mürboa</i>	tell	<i>thungai</i>
dead	<i>mirriginni</i>	walk	<i>bailai</i>
large	<i>mürrandu</i>	run	<i>binnilai</i>
small	<i>banyungadyi</i>	bring	<i>matchgu</i>
tall or long	<i>ginyaro</i>	take	<i>ngundagai</i>
low or short	<i>kubbalo</i>	break	<i>giginni</i>
good	<i>gündya</i>	strike	<i>tukkai</i>
bad	<i>keberri</i>	fight	<i>tukkairibba</i>
red	<i>ngaiar</i>	arise	<i>bakkulai</i>
white	<i>durrungurra</i>	fall down	<i>wen' dhure</i>
black	<i>dhai-u-gillu</i>	chastise	<i>murratchbe</i>

look	<i>nagai</i>	suck	<i>ngũmbumai</i>
hear	<i>ngurrinbai</i>	swim	<i>bunggai</i>
give	<i>ngibbi-u</i>	search for	<i>naga-nangadha</i>
sing	<i>ngutchbai</i>	spit	<i>burunggale</i>
weep	<i>nunggai</i>	smell	<i>bādhe</i>
cook	<i>gutçh-bai</i>	throw	<i>yerriadhe</i>
steal	<i>kurramago</i>	pitch	<i>wangumbai</i>
beg	<i>thungai</i>	roast	<i>gubai</i>
blow with breath	<i>imbai</i>	whistle	<i>winggillai</i>
climb	<i>kur' rigille'</i>	pretend	<i>butta' le</i>
conceal	<i>inbai</i>	kiss	<i>dhumagu</i>
jump	<i>bettagille</i>	vomit	<i>yakai</i>
laugh	<i>yagai</i>	dance	<i>ngunyare.</i>
scratch	<i>bing-ago</i>	dive	<i>mulagale</i>
send	<i>yandigo</i>	to injure by sorcery	<i>yaiaro</i>
bite, sting	<i>bullingunni</i>	kill	<i>gunginne</i>
shine	<i>ngerumbunna</i>		

PARRAMATTA,

NEW SOUTH WALES.